

## HB 1407 -- Sickkle Cell Disease Task Force

Sponsor: Walton Gray

This bill establishes the Sickkle Cell Disease Task Force within the Department of Health and Senior Services to assess the impact of sickkle cell disease on urban communities, examine the existing services and resources to address the needs of people with the disease, and develop recommendations for educational services to schools on the traits of the disease and their effects. The task force will consist of 19 members, including one legislative member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

The task force must meet in at least three urban regions of the state to receive public input and to examine trends in the state sickkle cell disease populations and their needs, existing services and resources, needed state policies or responses, and the replacement of the genetic testing and counseling program which has been eliminated due to lack of funding. A report of the findings and any recommendations by the task force must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2012. The task force must continue to meet at least once each year and submit an annual supplemental report until December 31, 2014.

The provisions of the bill will expire December 31, 2014.